GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2456
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2006
MID DAY MEAL SCHEME
Rawale Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of Rs. 2/- per child is provided under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to revise this amount;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the adequate steps taken by the Government to ensure that this scheme is fully operational in all the States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): Under the Revised Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme effected from September, 2004, assistance for meeting cooking cost @Re. 1/- per child per school day is provided as Central assistance. States are expected to supplement Central assistance with there own resources to ensure a hygienic mid- day meal having variety and wholesomeness. Many States are already contributing substantially. Central Government is constantly urging States to make adequate contribution, over and above the Central assistance.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that this scheme is fully effectively operational in the all States: -

i) Mothers have been exhorted to supervise, in turns, the cooking and serving of the meal to the children in the schools.

ii) A media campaign has been started to heighten public awareness about the programme.

iii) States have been requested to encourage decentralized implementation of the scheme through involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Village Education Committees, School Management Committees, Women Self-Help Groups, Youth Clubs, etc.

iv) Guidelines also provide for constitution of Steering-cum- Monitoring Committees at National, State, District and Block level, consisting of representatives, inter-alia, experts/persons with significant contribution in the areas of nutrition, child welfare, community mobilization, school education, etc.